

## ARTICLE SUMMARIES

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### **Remembering the Bomb: Science Fiction and the Mediation of Collective Memory from the 1950s to the late 1970s** | *Sean Martinez*

The atomic bomb is a complex and multifaceted cultural figure that defined foreign relations, American domestic society, and how humanity viewed the world around them. Perhaps the most telling example of the atomic bomb as a cultural figure is the atomic bomb in Science Fiction. This paper argues that from the 1950s to the late 1970s, the depiction of the atomic bomb in Science Fiction shifted from an object that destroys all life completely to an object that destroys life but, with an attitude of survivalism, humanity can persist. In an ambitious attempt to understand how this collective societal memory was crafted in Science Fiction, a theory of memory has been constructed to pinpoint important historical events and figures, how they defined the world around them, and how Science Fiction mediated these real world events and figures to create a memory that would be imparted upon its readers and viewers.

### **The Marriage of Science Fiction and Egyptology** | *Kevin McLaren*

“The Marriage of Science Fiction and Egyptology” is a research paper that addresses the beneficial relationship between Egyptology and science fiction. More specifically, the paper presents research and explanations of how science fiction stories have speculated and theorized potential answers to the questions addressing the mysterious nature, origin, and feats of Ancient Egypt, and how those possibilities correlate with actual scholarly theories. By tying together the fact that “soft” science fiction and Egyptology as a scholarly field had their advent in the late nineteenth century, the paper follows a timeline of Egypt-based science fiction stories and breakthroughs in the Egyptological community and demonstrates how science fiction written about Egypt has evolved simultaneously with the field of Egyptology. Sources include stories and scholarly works written in the late 19th century during the initial European spark of Egyptology, stories and research during the height of Egyptology in the 1920s due to the discovery of Tutankhamun’s

tomb, and more recent 20th and 21st century pieces that shake the foundations of traditional Egyptology such as the science fiction movie, “Stargate,” and scholarly works by Egyptologists that discuss the origins and purposes of Egyptian culture such as “Fingerprints of the Gods,” by Graham Hancock and “The Orion Mystery,” by Robert Bauval. The paper is intended to answer questions such as: Why is Egyptology a prevalent theme in science fiction? What questions are the science fiction authors attempting to answer, and how are those answers relevant to the field of Egyptology? What are the typical trends of Egyptian-based science fiction and how have those themes changed with newer discoveries and scholarly breakthroughs in Egyptology.

### **Identity and the Holocaust: American Jewry in the 1950s |**

*Hannah Milstein*

During the 1950s, American Jews were inherently bound together by their wariness of the Holocaust, as, even in the United States, anti-Semitism remained present in varying forms and severity. Various national sentiments against Jews coupled with the pressure to reevaluate Germany in light of the new Cold War geopolitics created an atmosphere in which American Jewry was caught between their duties as Americans and Jews; believing it was necessary to remember the Holocaust, but not comfortable enough to differentiate themselves as a minority on the National stage. This conflict would not only lead to a crisis of identity for American Jewry but create a climate in which an integral part of that identity, the Holocaust, would only be acknowledged among other Jews.

### **Constructing Identity in a Post-War World |** *Elizabeth Metelak*

In the contemporary world, nationalism permeates societal conceptions of everything from foreign and domestic policy to schoolyard teasing and individual identity. Indeed, the nation has come to be seen as a permanent historical fixture around the globe, so much so that most societies have forgotten just how recent an idea it truly is. In a case study of

Lithuanian national identity from its birth in the 19th century through its initial fight for statehood, this paper seeks to shed light on the challenges and complexities inherent to defining a nation and reiterate the relative youth of nationalism in the historical record. Through my analysis of the international conflicts and communications surrounding the creation of a Lithuanian state and national identity, I conclude that the external influences on a community play just as crucial a role in defining a nation as the cultures and desires of those within the community itself. These conclusions present Lithuania as a national community that owes its existence at least as much to its enemies and emigrant cousins as to the sacrifices and imaginations of its own members.

### **Development of the Cal Poly Biochemistry Department, 1967–1977 |**

*Jackson Baumgartner*

Utilizing archived course catalogs, this paper explores the development of Cal Poly's Biochemistry Department from the late 1960s through the late 1970s. When the department was created, required courses for the Biochemistry program overlapped heavily with the courses required by the Chemistry Department. As Cal Poly developed from a college and earned the title of university, the Biochemistry major at Cal Poly began to take on a more unique character, reflecting the growth of science programs at the school, as well as the a general shift away from more vocational instruction.

### **The Civil Rights Movement at Cal Poly |** *Megan Manning*

Using Cal Poly's newspaper, the *Mustang Daily*, as a primary source, this paper looks at the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 1970s on the Cal Poly campus. The primary focus is on the actions and requests of Cal Poly's Black Student Union, reactions from university administrators, and the ways in which the discussion of civil rights occurred in the *Mustang Daily* during the Civil Rights Movement. This examination reveals a school at a historic crossroads, the opinions of students and staff, and the ways in which their ideas opposed each other at some points, while lending support at others.

## **Cal Poly Veteran Village** | *Jenna Rovenstine*

This essay examines the living situations of military veterans at Cal Poly following the Second World War. Making use of Cal Poly's newspaper, the *Mustang Daily* and the school's annual yearbook, the *El Rodeo*, this paper dissects how the post war living situation for veterans was portrayed and what questions they leave unanswered. These sources demonstrate a particularly one sided representation of the veteran housing program, likely because of their official nature and the desire to attract more students.